COMMANDERS DIGEST

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3 Civilian Groups Organize Gift Train, Trucks to Vietnam

Three civilian organizations have raised more than $60 million worth of gifts towards a $100 million goal for distribution by U.S. forces to people of the Republic of Vietnam.

Co-sponsors of "America's Christmas Train and Trucks for the People of South Vietnam" are the U.S. Jaycees, Young Democratic Clubs of America and Young Republican National Federation.

The youth organizations have received help from the nation's railroad and trucking industries with free deliveries to port of embarkation assured. Trucks deliver loads to railheads and railroads carry them to Oakland, Calif. A ship of the Agency for International Development (AID) is scheduled to take the gifts overseas.

Beginning of the rail and truck movement was highlighted with an official ceremony in Washington, D.C., marking departure of an express train hauling 10 gift-laden freight cars. Among those attending were Vice President Hubert H. Humphrey and Gen. Wallace M. Greene Jr., Commandant of the Marine Corps.

The project coordinates efforts of individual citizens including civic, trade, professional and service groups throughout the nation.

President Sends Christmas Message To Men, Women of Armed Forces

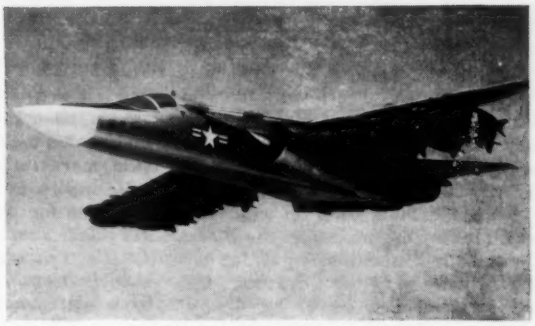
This is a season of hope and rejoicing as we celebrate the birth of the Prince of Peace. It is a time for renewing ties of brotherhood with all men of good will, everywhere on earth.

Our thoughts are especially with the man and woman in uniform. We ask that you may enjoy a full measure of this season's happiness. Far from your home and loved ones, you make it possible for all the rest of us to enjoy more fully the meaning of Christmas. For your sacrifice we are forever indebted.

We grieve for those who have made the supreme sacrifice, for those who bear wounds for freedom's sake, and for their families.

We rededicate ourselves in this season of good will to the ultimate promise of peace made 2,000 years ago. To fulfill that hope remains our urgent quest.

Lyndon B. Johnson



LOADED UP—This illustration shows how a USAF Strategic Air Command FB-111 bomber will be able to carry 50 conventional bombs weighing 750 pounds each. Forty-eight of the bombs can be carried under the wings and two more internally.

FB-111 Approved to Replace Early B-52 Bomber Models

President Johnson has given the go-ahead for development, production and deployment of a new dual-purpose jet bomber, FB-111, to replace early models of the B-52 Stratofortress.

The first of 210 aircraft planned is scheduled for delivery in 1968 with all operational by 1971. Total cost, plus spares and attrition aircraft, is expected to be about $1.75 billion.

Announcement of the new bomber was made by Secretary of Defense Robert S. McNamara Dec. 10.

FB-111 cost, plus operating expenses, is less than the cost of modifying and operating B-52 series C through F, Secretary McNamara pointed out. Funds for the FB-111 will be included in the FY67 program which will be presented to Congress in January.

The FB-111 will be a variant of the tactical fighter, the F-111, now under production for the Air Force and Navy.

In comparison to Strategic Air Command B-52s it will replace, the FB-111 will fly faster, both at low and high altitudes. It will carry 50 750-pound high explosive bombs. The new bomber also requires less room for takeoff and landing than the B-52s being replaced.

When Secretary McNamara announced actions concerning 149 Department of Defense activities Dec. 8, some associated with B-52 operations, he noted that certain bases would remain open for new missions, one of which will be FB-111 operations.

Washington Memos

ABSOLUTE NECESSITY FOR eliminating "all of the fat" from Defense Department programs for FY67 was emphasized by President Johnson during meeting with Defense Secretary McNamara, but he said it must be done without touching in any way the muscle of our military strength. "This is the foundation on which we will develop the programs for Fiscal '67 and the foundation on which we will present it to the Congress," the secretary noted.

A NEW UNIT of U.S. Army Electronics Command, the Electronic Equipment Representative Coordinator, has been established in Vietnam to provide training guidance, technical assistance and advice in electronic equipment operation and maintenance to users there.

CASUALTIES INCURRED BY U.S. military personnel in Vietnam from Jan. 1, 1961 to Dec. 6, 1965, showed total deaths resulting from actions by hostile forces to be 1,432. Total deaths not the result of actions by hostile forces were 429.

NEW TYPE OF rocket propelled drone will undergo tests in Pacific Missile Range, Point Mugu, Calif. Called SPARM (Solid-Propellant Augmented Rocket Motor), its engine is a combined booster and sustainer in single package. Developed by Thiokol Chemical Corp., Huntsville, Ala., SPARM will operate at speeds in excess of Mach 2 at 70,000 feet altitude.

ARMY INFANTRY BOARD, Ft. Benning, Ga., is testing a new lightweight poncho to fill a need in the Republic of Vietnam. Poncho is same as old one but weighs half as much.

ANOTHER MSTS TRANSPORT, USNS Geiger, returns to trans-Atlantic service in January. Plans for USNS Upshur's return not yet announced. The USNSs Buckner, Patch, Rose and Darby have already returned from emergency duty in Pacific.

RAYMOND BURR, MOTION picture and television star, has been named National Honorary Chairman of "America's Christmas Train and Trucks for the People of South Vietnam." Burr is a Freedoms Foundation Board of Trustees member and has entertained troops abroad, including four trips to the Republic of Vietnam.

MILITARY TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT and Terminal Service (MTMTS) organizational structure is undergoing major realignment to provide more responsive and economical support to the Nation's defense. Schedule for transfer of functions of MTMTS' Eastern and Southeastern Traffic regions to Eastern Area Headquarters, Brooklyn, N.Y., has been announced.

SOUTHEASTERN TRAFFIC REGION, Atlanta, Ga., will begin phase-out in mid-December 1965 and will complete move to New York by Jan. 15, 1966. Eastern Traffic Region, Pittsburgh, Pa., will begin phase-out during January 1966 and will complete move to New York by Feb. 28, 1966. After that date Commander Eastern Area will have responsibility for transportation support to approximately 800 military installations, activities and DOD contractors.

SONS OF MARINES, officer and enlisted, active, retired or deceased, are reminded there are 75 Presidential nominations annually awarded for appointment to U.S. Naval Academy. Applications should be addressed to: Chief of Naval Personnel (Pers-B-66), Department of the Navy, Washington, D.C. 20370. A Jan. 31, 1966, deadline for applications has been established.

NATIONAL OFFICERS of three organizations sponsoring "America's Christmas Train and Trucks for the People of South Vietnam" were honored with a luncheon in Philadelphia. National Presidents James A. Skidmore Jr., U. S. Jaycees, and Virgil L. Musser, Young Democratic Clubs of America; and National Chairman Tom R. Van Sickle, Young Republican National Federation, were hosted by the Delaware Valley Ladies Committee of Freedoms Foundation, Valley Forge.

AN OPERATING MODEL of world's first variable-sweep wing fighter-bomber (F-111) has been presented to USAF Academy for permanent display. Made of fiberglass, model is one-quarter actual size of aircraft used by Air Force, Navy and Marine Corps. Wings actually change sweep and model rotates on pedestal.

SEVENTH ARMY SOLDIERS Chorus began its Christmas concert tour of border outposts in Germany Dec. 15. Chorus will travel over 2,000 miles in 10 days to sing for American and German troops.

THE ARMY'S SPRINT anti-missile missile has been launched successfully, from an underground cell of the type conceived for operational use, at White Sands Missile Range, N.M. The 27-foot missile was ejected in guided flight, firing both of its solid propellant motors during the test. One of two missiles being developed for the Nike-X system, Sprint is the first Army missile to use this launching technique. It is to be a companion to the Zeus missile, capable of intercepting attacking warheads outside the earth's atmosphere. Sprint would be used to intercept targets after they have penetrated the atmosphere.

EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE REQUESTS for 1966 fall semester of college must be received by Air Force Aid Society no later than Jan. 31, 1966. Applications for loans or grants received after that date cannot be considered. Queries should be directed to: AFAS National Headquarters, STOP 102, Washington, D.C. 20333.

AIR FORCE COMMUNICATIONS Service will redesignate three Facility Checking Flights as squadrons effective Jan. 1, 1966. Move is being made to give flights equal status, for logistical support purposes, with other units on bases where flights are located.

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Background for Commanders

The OAS Moves Forward

At a time when international crises, wars, revolutions and discord between nations capture the headlines, it is heartening to be able to report some positive accomplishments in one very important area of international cooperation.

This area is the Western Hemisphere. And the accomplishments were the work of the Second Special Inter-American Conference, which was held from Nov. 17-30 at Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

Background

The Organization of American States (OAS), formally established in 1948, is a regional alliance without parallel in any other part of the world. Twenty republics of North, Central and South America make up its present membership. (Cuba's Castro government was excluded in 1962.) The OAS is the coordinating body for all inter-American agencies and provides machinery for the peaceful settlement of disputes and for cooperation for economic and social progress. The OAS Charter embodies the principles of the 1947 inter-American mutual defense treaty against aggression. It also bans the intervention of any member state in the affairs of another.

Organization

As currently organized, the supreme policy-making body of the OAS is the Inter-American Conference, scheduled to meet every five years. For urgent problems requiring immediate action, a Meeting of Consultation of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs is held. The OAS Council is the permanent executive body, with headquarters in Washington, D.C. It has three major arms: Economic and Social Council, Council of Jurists, and Educational, Scientific and Cultural Council. The Pan-American Union serves as the secretariat for the OAS.

Purpose of Rio Conference

Although the Inter-American Conference is supposed to meet every five years, for various reasons no conference had been held since 1954. At that meeting, policies for Latin American economic, social and cultural development were adopted which, in 1961, were incorporated in the Alliance for Progress.

The 11 years since the 1954 Conference had been a period of rapid change and problems of increasing complexity. All members agreed that the major institution for dealing with these problems, the OAS, needed to be modernized so that they could be handled more quickly and effectively.

In his address to the Conference, Secretary of State Dean Rusk said: "The greatest and most complicated task which the inter-American system has faced in the past decade is the mobilization of collective efforts in support of a peaceful and democratic economic and social revolution."

Secretary Rusk made a number of concrete proposals for accelerating Latin America's economic development. He also announced in a message from President Johnson that the United States will be willing to extend the mutual commitment under the Alliance for Progress (due to end in 1971) beyond the 10 years originally planned. The extent of U.S. contribution will depend on the progress made by Latin American countries on their own contribution to the effort.

U.S. Proposals

Among Mr. Rusk's proposals for improving OAS:

1. Annual OAS meetings of the foreign ministers;
2. Strengthening the organizational relationship among the key organs of the system;
3. Strengthening the role of the Secretary General by authorizing him to bring to the attention of the Council any matter that he thinks may endanger peace and security in the hemisphere;
4. Possible desirability of establishing an inter-American peace force for the purpose of assisting any hemisphere nation in danger of a Communist takeover.

Delegates to the Rio Conference adopted far-reaching guidelines for major reforms to the OAS Charter. A committee from all member states will prepare a draft of the necessary amendments. These will be acted on by a Third Special Inter-American Conference at Buenos Aires next July.

The Declaration of Rio

Among the major recommendations:

1. Annual Inter-American Conference of foreign ministers;
2. Greater authority for the Economic and Social Council and the Educational, Scientific and Cultural Council by giving them equal status with the OAS Council;
3. An Act of Rio de Janeiro that spells out members' economic obligations for self-help and mutual assistance. It pledges the members to work toward the objective of a Latin American common market;
4. Authorization for the OAS Council to seek peaceful settlement of border disputes;
5. Consultation among member states after a coup has occurred. Decision on recognition of a **de facto** government is left to each member, but the prospect of investigation is regarded as a step toward discouragement of coups.

No action was taken on an inter-American peace force.

The blueprint for broad reform of the OAS drawn up by the Rio Conference promises to give new dynamism to the inter-American system. Of perhaps greatest significance for the future was the far-reaching commitment by all the members to a program of mutual assistance in the economic development of the hemisphere.

Army Brig. Gen. Selection Criteria

Army has begun a policy of announcing selection criteria and releasing names of board members with this month's Presidential approval of 55 brigadier general temporary promotions.

The BG promotions are expected to fill vacancies occuring between Dec. 1, 1965, and Jan. 1, 1967. Sufficient recess appointments were also approved to fill vacancies until Congress reconvenes Jan. 10.

Full consideration was given to successful duty tours on Joint (including MAAG-JUSMAG), Combined, Allied and OSD staffs. Equal weight was given to Army staff service.

Optimum consideration was directed to counterinsurgency qualification and performance, however this was not considered a selection prerequisite.

Members considered all RA and AUS colonels with date of rank on or before Dec. 31, 1962, and recommended 55 in order of merit on a best qualified basis.

Primary zone of consideration was year groups 1939-1942, with members instructed to select all but a few from the primary zone. Exceptions included selection of up to six from groups 1943 and later. Age criteria and age limitations were not established.

Fifty-two officers were selected from the primary zone and three from year groups 1943 and later.

LONGEST FLIGHT—Gemini 7 astronauts Cdr. James Lovell Jr., USN, (left) and Lt. Col. Frank Borman, USAF, are scheduled to return to Earth this week-end after the longest manned space flight in history. (NASA photo via UPI)

Reorganize Army Staff Units

Department of the Army staff reorganization has streamlined functions of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Personnel (DCSPER) and exchanged some activities with the Assistant Chief of Staff for Force Development (ACSFOR). DCSPER now is responsible for all personnel management, schools and individual training and has centralized control of personnel requirements, procurement, training and personnel distribution. ACSFOR is responsible for civilian and military manpower space management, plans, programs and manpower usage policy.

Navy Plans Trial Of Single Contract Award Procedure

Navy plans to make a trial application of a new contracting procedure in ship construction, with approval of the Secretary of Defense, involving a single contract for design, construction and certain support functions of a number of ships of the same type.

Prototype for testing the new concept will be the Fast Deployment Logistics ship (FDL), a large, fast vessel equipped to handle cargo rapidly.

Navy will select a design and production proposal for the FDL program on the basis of cost and performance. Previous contracts have covered ship construction only. There will be no specification of detailed ship characteristics or materials to be used. Bidders will be required to include specific guarantees of overall cost and performance.

U.S., Soviet Specialists On Exchange Tours

Seven U.S. radiologists departed Dec. 6 for a tour of Soviet research facilities specializing in effects of radiation on the nervous system.

Dr. Glenn T. Seaborg, Chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission, announced the tour and said USSR scientists will visit the U.S. in January to tour low energy research installations. Reciprocal tours by Soviet specialists in radioneurology and by U.S. specialists in low energy physics will be scheduled in 1966.

PERSONNEL ACTIONS

Marshall P. Jones appointed Ambassador to Malawi, Africa succeeding **Ambassador Sam P. Gilstrap. Maj. Gen. James A. Richardson III** appointed The Inspector General, Department of Army. **Maj. Gen. William C. Garrison** appointed Deputy Inspector General, Department of Army, succeeding General Richardson. **Maj. Gen. Harold E. Humfeld, USAF,** assigned Commander, Headquarters 1, Strat Aerospace Division, SAC, Vandenberg AFB, Calif. **Mr. Clyde Bothmer** appointed Executive Secretary of the Defense Industry Advisory Council succeeding **Mr. Samuel W. Crosby.**

CONTRACT AWARDS

Southern Athletic Co., Inc., Knoxville, Tenn.: $1,376,320 fixed-price contract for 147,200 men's lightweight raincoats. **(DSA)**

General Motors Corp., Detroit, Mich.: $1,952,809 fixed-price contract for 8-cylinder diesel engines. **(Army)**

AVCO Corp., Cincinnati, Ohio: $10,500,000 contract for procurement of additional equipment for early warning systems. **(Air Force)**

Universal Match Corp., Ferguson, Mo.: $9,119,701 fixed-price contract for ASROC launchers. **(Navy)**